

ABSTRACT

An overriding theme in Jean Rhys' fiction is the condition of the female in the early 20th century. Linked to this theme is concern about financial security, which plays an important part in the lives of individuals as well as in male-female relationships.

This paper explores the theme of money, particularly in relation to female experience. In the world of Rhys' fiction, people are often valued in accordance with their material resources. Relationships, often exploitative, are affected by money possessed by one partner or the other - in most cases the male. The paper also seeks to establish a link between the condition of the female and that of the West Indies as colonized territory. The link is developed through the experiences of specific characters seen as types of the colonizer and the colonized. Destruction or fragmentation of personality is often a consequence of these relationships.